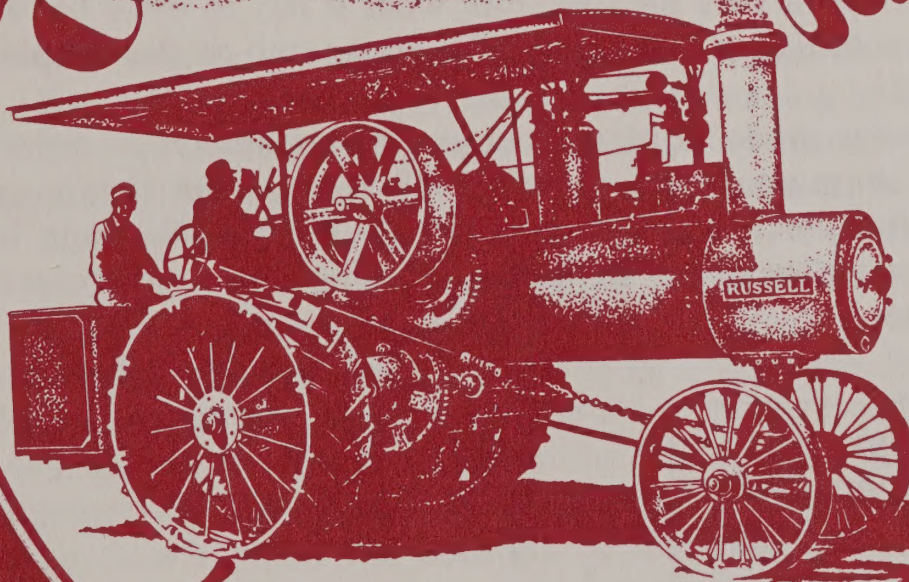


THE THRESHERS' REVIEW

MT. PLEASANT, IOWA

Celebrating



40 Years

SPRING

1989

A MAGAZINE FOR
MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS



Spring 1989

Vol. 5 no. 1

Dear Friends of Midwest Old Threshers,

In February, nature finally blanketed southeast Iowa with an insulation of snow during a time of healing and renewal. As the land is at rest, it prepares for the months of growth and development. This is also a time of renewal for Midwest Old Threshers as the Association puts its energy toward its own growth and the development of the 1989 Old Threshers Reunion scheduled for August 31 through September 4 in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

This coming Reunion marks the 40th annual celebration of our agricultural heritage. The event's stability over time has provided generations of people with a place where they can come home to and enjoy images of our past in a hometown environment. This issue of the *THRESHERS REVIEW* is filled with a sampling of what is in store for Reunion visitors and provides the membership with the opportunity to order advance memberships and country music tickets for the fall Reunion. The Association is very pleased with what it has to offer for entertainment this year, and encourages members to take advantage of the simple order blank found on page 13.

After you have made your selections and mailed your order to the Old Threshers office, share your copy of the *REVIEW* with your friends and neighbors. We are certain that they, too, will want to travel to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and experience the preservation of our agricultural heritage in a modern world. See you at the 1989 reunion!

Lennis Moore
Administrator

Midwest Old Threshers
Route 1, Threshers Road
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641
(319) 385-8937

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Celebrating 40 Years . . .



One of the first photographs of the Board of Directors - from the left (seated) Robert Willits, Ray Ernst, Herman Elgar, (standing) Joe Ruby, Clark Everts, Ray Vorhies, W.E. Detrick, and Milo Mathews. Original board member Frank Johnson was not in the picture. The Old Threshers Reunion was conceived in 1949 by Clark Everts, W.E. Detrick, Herman Elgar, and Ray Ernst on the way back from a reunion in Pontiac, Illinois. On August 21, 1950, the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association was incorporated under the non-profit laws of Iowa. The Association's first Reunion was held on September 21 and 22 of that year. The two-day Reunion drew several thousand visitors and today it is the largest gathering of its type in the United States, drawing over 100,000 people to the annual five day event.



Sometimes it seems difficult to imagine that there wasn't an Old Threshers Reunion. Since the first showing of 15 steam engines in 1950, the Association has developed an annual event that brings people from across the nation to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, to celebrate our agricultural past. This year will record the 40th Old Threshers Reunion, and like anyone about to celebrate their 40th birthday, it gives time to reflect on the previous years.

From the first planning meetings in Herman Elgar's garage, the Old Threshers Association has grown to become the largest event of its type in America. The goals of the first directors were to become the driving force for an Association *"dedicated to preserving our agricultural heritage in a modern world."* The event would grow over time without the addition of midways, carnivals, commercial booths or alcohol sales; instead providing the visitors with a glimpse of our past and an interaction with each other. As the organization grew and became more complex, earlier boards and volunteer groups guided its progress with a loving hand and rejoiced in its potential. There was not a master plan to be followed, and what exists today would probably astonish some of the early board members. But, the Association feels that its founders would certainly be proud to see the results of the nurturing.

Today's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers are ever mindful of the need to preserve and further nurture Midwest Old Threshers. The Annual Reunion has become a multifaceted event offering something for every member of the family in a wholesome environment. But, as the Association grows, like any organism, it becomes much more complex. Many factors influence the success of the Reunion,

including the economy, governmental regulations, media advertising and, most of all, the weather. All of these factors increase the need for prudent planning and require an insightful consideration of what is to come in the future. To this end, the Association established the Old Threshers Foundation in 1986 to foster and encourage endowment giving and is presently developing a long-term plan to guide the organization in capital projects.

Maintaining the goals of the founding fathers is no easy task. In 1950, there was less competition for entertainment and tourism dollars than there is now. Today's event or fair is constantly made aware of all the other attractions striving for a market share of the money people have saved to entertain themselves. Many other events have fallen prey to corporate sponsorship and alternative sources of revenue. But, nothing comes without a price and these events have found themselves dictated to by these programs and have, in some cases, lost their true identity. Midwest Old Threshers feels that this would be too high a price to pay.

This past year, the Old Threshers Reunion (always five days ending Labor Day) saw all exhibit areas set new records of exhibited steam engines, tractors, gas engines, cars, trucks, and horses. Ridership on the Midwest Electric trolleys and the Midwest Central Railroad remained at a high level, crowds increased at the Log and North Villages, and the sale of quality crafts realized an all-time high. Volunteer interest and involvement increased in all Reunion-related areas as well as during the Association's school tours and support committees. The Old Threshers Reunion also involves a multitude of area church and civic organizations that provide the extra support systems to feed, park, and process the Reunion visitors. In turn, these groups derive additional income to continue their own local projects.

It has been said that, "Life begins at forty." As Midwest Old Threshers prepares to CELEBRATE 40 YEARS, we feel certain that the Old Threshers Reunion in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, will continue to be "a place you can come home to." Come and help us celebrate!

* * * * *

New!! 1989 40th Reunion Cookbook

Limited Edition



- ★ 500-600 New Recipes
- ★ Available mid-August, 1989
- ★ Mail orders accepted after August 1, 1989
- ★ May be purchased at several locations during the Aug. 31 - Sept. 4 Reunion

\$5.00 ea. + \$2.00 Shipping

**Look for additional souvenirs
celebrating our 40th year
at the 1989 Reunion!**

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| ☆ Cloisonne Pins | ☆ Cups |
| ☆ Crystal Bells | ☆ Plates |
| ☆ Caps | |

Foundation Support Increases

Since the first Reunion in 1950, friends of Midwest Old Threshers have supported the Association with untold hours of volunteer labor, interest, enthusiasm, donations of artifacts, and financial support. In recent years the Board of Directors for the Association determined that a need existed for some form of organization to receive the financial gifts and donations, to plan for their investment and use, and to further encourage such support as a way of accomplishing projects for Old Threshers not possible from the Association's yearly operating budgets. This organization was to insure that the funds donated would not "disappear" into routine operating expenses, but would be a permanent fund used to assure a stable future and growth for Midwest Old Threshers.

In April 1986, the Old Threshers Foundation, Inc., was established and a permanent endowment fund was created. Shortly thereafter, the Association transferred the \$40,000 E.A. Hayes Zephyr Trust Fund to the Foundation. From this beginning, additional fund raising, endowment growth, and new projects for Old Threshers were initiated.

At the end of the first (partial) year on October 31, 1986, the endowment fund had grown to \$52,968 and had earned \$900 interest which was used to support construction of the exhibit, "WATER: Too Little, Too Much" in Heritage Museum B.

In the years that followed, Foundation growth and accomplishments have resulted from your support, interest, and encouragement:

1987: Endowment Fund: \$71,983
Interest Earnings: \$ 3,000
Projects Supported: Museum Exhibit, "Electricity comes to the Farm" and Phase I Construction of the Wilkie Machine Tool Exhibit.

1988: Endowment Fund: \$87,241
Interest Earnings: \$ 4,327
Projects Supported: Phase II Construction of the Wilkie Machine Tool Exhibit and Construction of the Sawn Log Barn in the Log Village.

March

1989: Endowment Fund: \$92,686
Goal by October 31, 1989: \$100,000
Projected Interest Earnings: \$6,300
Projects to be Supported: To be selected at the next annual Board meeting.

Each year it becomes more difficult for the Foundation Directors to select from among all the projects proposed those to be supported through the endowment interest earnings. As the endowment grows, more projects can be accomplished, more areas can benefit, and all of us can be proud of a growing, expanding, improving, and strong Midwest Old Threshers.

Donations to the Foundation in any amount are always gratefully appreciated. More of you are increasing your giving levels and are becoming major donors, earning recognition with Foundation pins and plaques. And, as always, your gifts are tax deductible.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Foundation Major Donor List

All donations in any amount to the Old Threshers Foundation are truly appreciated. We would, however, like to take this opportunity to extend special recognition and appreciation to our major donors. They are listed on the Foundation Booth plaque as follows:

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

(Donations of \$10,000 or More)

E.A. Hayes, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

BENEFACTOR

(Donations of \$5,000 or More)

Virgil Coonrod, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Henry County Savings Bank, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

PATRON

(Donations of \$1,000 or More)

Ralph Shellabarger, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Leo & Billie Turley, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Lyle & Alice Shellabarger, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Paul & Joyce Dennison, Radio Station KILJ, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Staats Manufacturing Company, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

The Paul Tonkinson Family, Yarmouth, Iowa

Dale & Dorothy McLain, Lockridge, Iowa

In Memory of C.E. (Jack) & Lottie Pilling

William & Helen Sater, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Carl & Ella Bruchner, Hiawatha, Iowa

SPONSOR

(Donations of \$500 or More)

Harrison & Opal Moore, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Dr. Richard & Joann Sankey, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

E.H. Gosnell, Beardstown, Illinois

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Le Mon, Mishawaka, Indiana

Dr. Robert & Barbara Welander, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Frederick Strong, Monmouth, Illinois

SUSTAINING

(Donations of \$100 or More)

Don Romeo Agency, Omaha, Nebraska

T.H. DeWees, Yuma, Arizona

Jim & Audrey Patton, Hiawatha, Iowa

David & Elizabeth Young, Fort Madison, Iowa

Santa Fe Southern Pacific Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

The S. Earl Maurer Family, Danvers, Illinois

James & Judith Washburn, Zionsville, Indiana

Mr. & Mrs. John Barrett, Columbus, Ohio

Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Carlson, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Newton, Niota, Illinois

Mr. & Mrs. Albert H. Nikkel, Tracy, Iowa

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Pacha, Birmingham, Iowa

Mr. & Mrs. William E. Remmert, Kirkwood, Missouri

Kenneth G. Teeter, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Betty L. Teeter, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Mr. & Mrs. Merlin C. Winer, St. Marys, Ohio

Dallas Leichty, Wayland, Iowa

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

S. Coles Roberts, Vincentown, New Jersey

David & Karen Timmerman, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Blackwood Parlin, Livingston, New Jersey

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Leonard & Bernita Moore, Elkader, Iowa

Anonymous Donor

David R. Osier, West Des Moines, Iowa

Paul Anderson, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Calvin & Goldeen Wirt, Burlington, Iowa

Jack & Virginia Folta, Laddonia, Missouri

Bruce W. Short, St. Clair, Michigan

Blue Bird Midwest, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

J.R. & Louise Hoyer, Hillsboro, Iowa

First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Neal & Alice Kitts, Farmington Hills, Michigan

Mrs. H.E. Elgar, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Lany & Barb Elgar, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

The Neal McClure Family, Colchester, Illinois

The Milo W. Mathews Family, Mt. Union, Iowa

Wendell L. Sargent, Lena, Illinois

Dave & Margaret Carrick, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Kennedy, Danville, Iowa

Richard W. Wilson, Muscatine, Iowa

In Memory of Allen Nicholls

Elmer & Betty Geigle, Walcott, Iowa

Lennis & Sandra Moore, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Charles Wendel, Atkins, Iowa

The N.K. Hartley Family

In Memory of N.J. Swanson

William & Mary Lee Boyd, Fulton, Missouri

Mary Elgar, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Glenn & Lois Hulquist, Burlington, Iowa

Mr. & Mrs. R.N. Roe, Norman, Oklahoma

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Taylor, Fairfield, Iowa

In Memory of W. Dale Williams

The Tom Hilbrant Family

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gaertner, Walsh, Illinois

Mr. Charles Pike, Bangor, Michigan

Leon & Jean Morrow, Galesburg, Illinois

Jerry Glanzman, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

OLD THRESHERS FOUNDATION



Seeds For the Future Harvest

Your continued help and support will assure a successful and exciting future for Old Threshers. Please consider being a part of this on-going effort. By your tax deductible donations, pledges, bequests and deferred giving, each of you will have an impact on the future of the Association and its obligation to preserve our agricultural heritage. Donations in any amount are gratefully accepted and appreciated. **You** can make a difference.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| ☐ | \$10,000 or more | PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE |
| ☐ | \$ 5,000 or more | BENEFACTOR |
| ☐ | \$ 1,000 or more | PATRON |
| ☐ | \$ 500 or more | SPONSOR |
| ☐ | \$ 100 or more | SUSTAINING |
| ☐ | Under \$100 | SUBSCRIBER |



☐ Please send me more information about deferred giving and estate planning.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of donation \$ _____

Please make your tax-deductible donation to:
OLD THRESHERS FOUNDATION, INC.

Mail to:

Midwest Old Threshers, R. 1, Threshers Rd., Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641

Still Steamin' At Forty

Forty years ago, fifteen steam traction engines were gathered in McMillan Park in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and the Old Threshers Reunion embarked on its maiden voyage. Today, the traction steam area has grown to include over 100 full-size and model engines. Each year, the Association designates an engine as the "Engine of the Year" to be featured in publications by the organization and on a special cloisonne pin. This year, the 25 HP Russell built in 1922 and now owned by Alden and Charlie Fricke of Mt. Union, Iowa has been chosen to represent the traction engines at the Old Threshers Reunion.



Reunion visitors are encouraged to view the operating traction steam engines at the 1989 Old Threshers Reunion. In addition to their participation in the daily Cavalcade of Power, a variety of power demonstrations are scheduled throughout the day including: threshing, sawing, veneering, and testing on the Prony brake and Baker fan. Come smell the smoke and enjoy the action!

Machine Tool Exhibit Proceeds

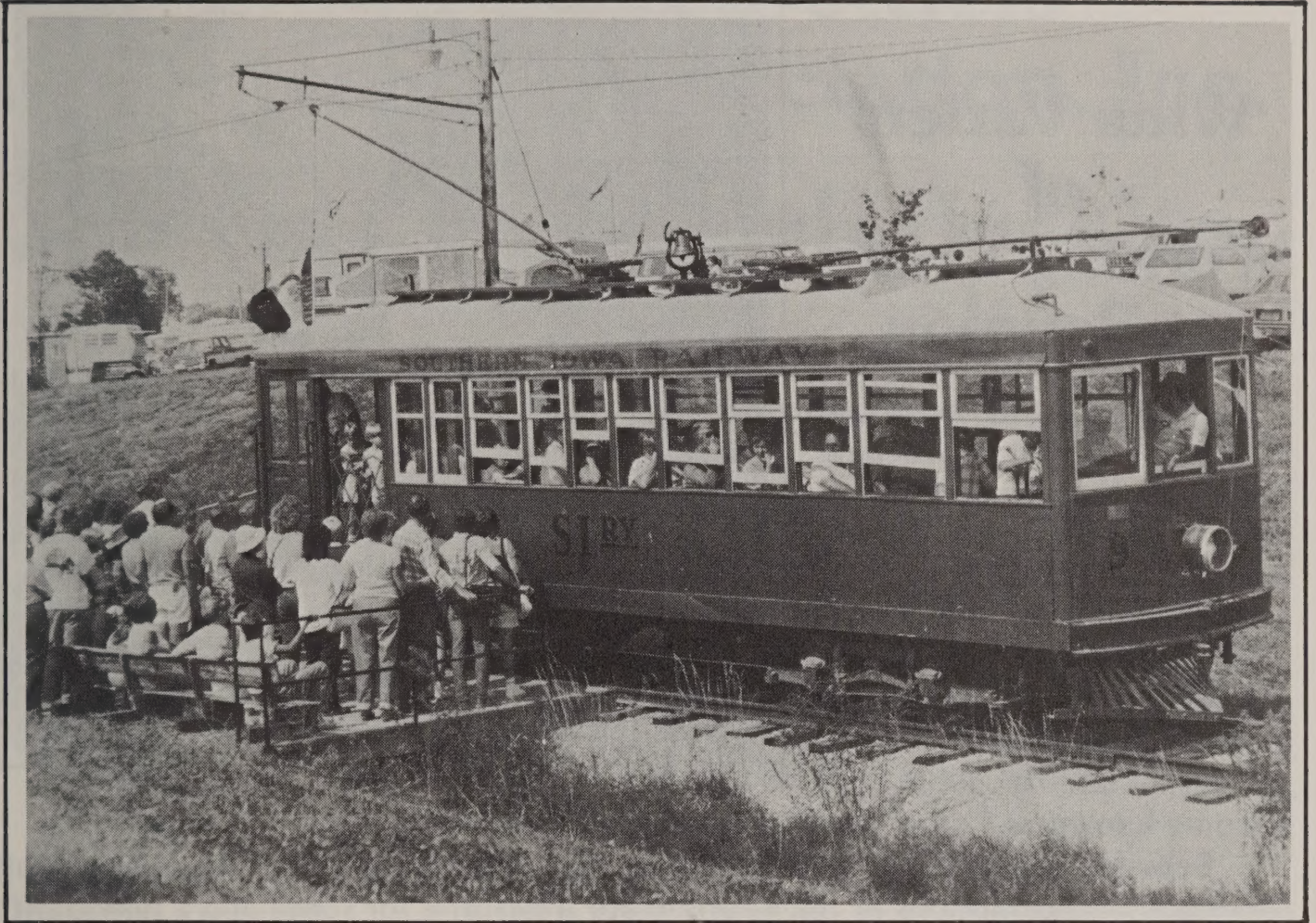
The Wilkie Machine Tool Exhibit continues into its second phase of construction in the stationary steam area located in Heritage Museum A. During the winter months, the entire exhibit perimeter was closed in with permanent wood walls, and a cement block wall was erected to separate the display from the boiler room proper.

When the final exhibit concept is completed, the walls will serve as a barrier to provide safety to the museum visitors as they view the exhibit. In addition, during the time of the year when the museums are closed to the public, moveable panels will be used to totally envelope the display, making it possible to keep the internal exhibit temperature slightly above the ambient temperature. This process is important to help reduce surface oxidation on the machine tool artifacts in the Wilkie collection.

The stationary steam volunteers have established several work sessions designed to ready the power house area for the Annual Reunion. These preparations will also include the relocation of a Peerless engine to the present site of the Murray Corliss engine. When in place, the Peerless will be belted to a lineshaft device which will provide power to the machine tool exhibit.

Reunion visitors are encouraged to view the developing machine tool exhibit. The machines will be in use and several volunteer machinists will be on hand to discuss the operation of the machines. Lectures and special demonstrations are scheduled periodically throughout the day, providing the opportunity to learn about the role these stationary engines played in the establishment of business and industry in the Midwest.

Midwest Electric Adds Trolleys



Through the efforts of Director Leon Morrow and several other volunteers for Midwest Old Threshers, the Association has added two CTA trolley cars to its collections. The cars were acquired from the newly-renamed Friends of the East Troy Railroad Museum, Inc., in East Troy, Wisconsin. Plans call for the cars to be rebuilt and remodeled as open bench-type cars for operation at Midwest Old Threshers. This project will be completed over the next few years with the cars scheduled for operation in the early 1990's.

The volunteers of the Midwest Electric Railway (owned by Old Threshers) are dedicated to the operation of an efficient and safe transit system for the Association during its Annual Reunion and other special events centered in the campground. During the annual event, the trolleys are used by campers to travel between the main grounds and their camp sites and are the primary mode of transportation used to visit the Log Village area.

All of the volunteers in the trolley area will be busy making maintenance repairs to the rolling stock, track and depot during the summer months in anticipation of the Annual Reunion. New motormen will be tested on the cars and qualified for operation during training sessions and smaller special events like the Swap Meet scheduled for June 24-25. Any persons interested in joining the trolley operation's volunteers are welcome and may receive a roster of work sessions by contacting the Old Threshers office.

The Midwest Electric Railway provides the Reunion visitors with an excellent opportunity to take a nostalgic trip back in time as the historic electric trolleys glide over the rails at the Old Threshers Reunion. Experience the clang of the bells, the toot of the whistles, and the repetitious click of the rails at the 1989 Reunion. Remember, we are "a place you can always come home to."

Wide Variety of Working Crafts at Reunion

Working crafts at the Old Threshers Reunion have long been one of its most popular attractions. The 40th Annual Reunion will prove to be just as popular, with some new crafts, and, again, craftspeople coming from more than 15 states. These people journey to participate in what has become known as "Iowa's Largest Working Craft Show."

Between the "wrrrr" of the spinning wheel and the carver's flying woodchips, these popular attractions at the Reunion are a pastime for some and a way of life for others. Emphasis is placed on the word "working" because these skilled crafts-

people spend many hours demonstrating to the visiting public the many processes of making their products. Each craftsman, if questioned, will share some of their ideas and thoughts on how their particular product is made. Watching these creative and talented people is very educational. You may also purchase their crafts and bring home a lasting memento from the Old Threshers Reunion.

A wide variety of crafts may be seen at the Reunion. All crafts must be period crafts that were in evidence prior to 1934. The main working craft areas are housed in Museum Buildings A & B on the south side of the grounds and in the Ag building on the north side of the grounds.

Also among the working crafts are antiques for sale in the Antique Building on the north side of the grounds and underneath the grandstand. These areas provide many hours of browsing among the "hidden" treasures at the Reunion.



★ Official ★
**Midwest Old Settlers
 and Threshers Association, Inc.**

Limited Edition Belt Buckles

(Series of six)

- Beautiful Fine Pewter
- Individually Gift Boxed
- 1200 Numbered Buckles
- \$26.50 each (Postage Paid)



1984

- First in Series
- Only 1500 Produced



1985

- Second in Series
- Only 1200 Produced



1986

- Third in Series
- Only 1200 Produced



1987

- Fourth in Series
- Only 1200 Produced



1988

- Fifth in Series
- Only 1200 Produced



1989 Available Now!

- Sixth and final in Series
- Only 1200 Produced
- Depicts Electric Trolley

Send \$26.50 per buckle to:
 Midwest Old Threshers
 R 1, Threshers Road
 Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Individual buckles
 are still available
 for each year.

Order Today!

EXPLORER POST 1846

Host to Popular Reunion Attraction



Catch a ride on one of Old Threshers' six historic electric trolleys and visit the Log Village during the 1989 Reunion, August 31 - September 4.

Located at the south end of the campground, the Log Village has become one of the more popular highlights at the annual event. There you may step into the 1800's and spend a few relaxing hours enjoying the setting of an early Iowa farming community.

During the Reunion, members of Explorer Post 1846 bring to life the activities of a time long past. Visit the Cassity House and Store, stop for a minute at the Kossuth Inn, smell the bread baking in the ovens and listen to the mixture of farm life sounds. Explore the Log Village Rendezvous Camp and visit with a buckskinner or watch Indian dancers. See blacksmithing, soap making, spinning and weaving, candle making, woodworking, and other various activities and events of early pioneer life.

Sponsored by Midwest Old Threshers, the national award-winning Explorer Post 1846 offers membership to young people between the ages of 14 and 21 and associate membership to young people between 12 and 14. In 1987, the Post was host of the Governor's Youth Conference in Des Moines. In July, 1988, the Post journeyed to the National Exploring Conference in Boston, Massachusetts and presented a program on the Log Village and the involvement of youth in historic interpretation. They returned home with a rating that placed them 2nd among Explorer Posts from across the nation! Explorer Post 1846 has had tremendous growth and numerous awards since its formation in 1983. Persons wishing additional information about the program should contact the office of the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association.



Site Manager Charles Protzman and Architect Barbara Welander, Mt. Pleasant, look over the plans and location of a proposed barn in the Log Village. The barn measuring 20' x 30' with additional wings would provide shelter for various animals in the Log Village and would house various antique farm artifacts and tools. Once the design of the structure has been decided and a formal budget prepared, the project will be completed if outside funds can be raised. Already, the Old Threshers Foundation has committed the major portion of the 1988 interest funds to the project, provided the total cost can be realized.

Membership In The Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Assoc. Inc.

PLEASE DEPOSIT THIS CARD IN ONE OF THE VARIOUS YELLOW REGISTRATION BOXES PLACED AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS ON THE OLD THRESHERS GROUNDS FOR UPDATE OF THE 1989 MEMBERSHIP RECORD AND MAILING LIST PLEASE PRINT! <u>John Doe</u> NAME <u>Jane</u> SPOUSE NAME <u>Route 1 Box 101</u> STREET ADDRESS/RURAL ROUTE BOX NUMBER <u>Anywhere Iowa</u> <u>50001</u> CITY STATE ZIP CODE PLEASE CHECK BOX IF NEW ADDRESS ☒	MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS <i>40th</i> ANNUAL REUNION AUG. 31 - SEPT. 4 MT. PLEASANT, IOWA 1989 MEMBERSHIP CARD \$6.00 GOOD FOR ALL FIVE DAYS OF THE REUNION, INCLUDING PREPARATION DAYS AND SUMMER MUSEUMS. — UNDER 10 FREE <table border="1"><tr><td colspan="4">SIGNATURE</td><td colspan="4">NON-TRANSFERABLE</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	SIGNATURE				NON-TRANSFERABLE				28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4								
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28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4																		

REMINDER! TO UPDATE OUR MAILING LIST YOU MUST FILL OUT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON YOUR REGISTRATION CARD **ANNUALLY**.

The main source of income for Midwest Old Threshers is the sale of annual memberships. The Association can only remain a unique institution as long as it is supported by the people who purchase the \$6.00 memberships. When you purchase a membership, you not only make the annual Old Threshers Reunion possible but many other programs as well. Midwest Old Threshers sponsors a yearly school tour program, hosts a steam class and theatre seminar, constructs educational exhibits, and operates its museums during the summer months. All of the above are funded by the membership sales.

When the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion began 40 years ago, the founding fathers felt that it was important to maintain an environment free from the sale of alcoholic beverages, commercial exhibits, carnivals and midways. Today, Midwest Old Threshers continues to adhere to these goals and the support from the membership makes it possible to do so. This commitment, providing people with a fun, family oriented, educational experience is what makes Old Threshers a unique Association..."dedicated to preserving our agricultural heritage in a modern world."

YOUR 1989 \$6.00 MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- 1989 Membership Card
- Admission to the Annual Reunion
- Biannual Threshers Review Magazine
- Free Admission to the Heritage Museums
- Free Admission to the Theatre Museum
- Voting Privileges at the Annual Membership Meeting (December 12, 1989)



Purchase your 1989 Membership in the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association, Inc. **BEFORE AUGUST 28** and receive a **FREE SOUVENIR BUTTON!!**

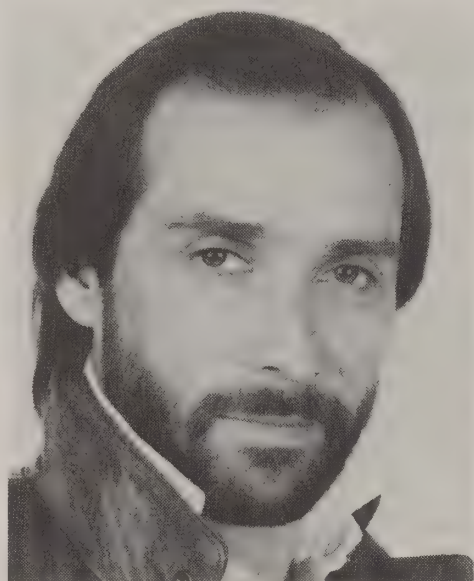
See Order Blank Information on Page 13.

1989 Reunion Country Music Old Threshers • Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Special Bluegrass Concert • Wednesday, August 30 • 7:30 p.m. Only
Possum Trot Band • Wayne Lewis Band

Thursday, August 31

**LEE
GREENWOOD**

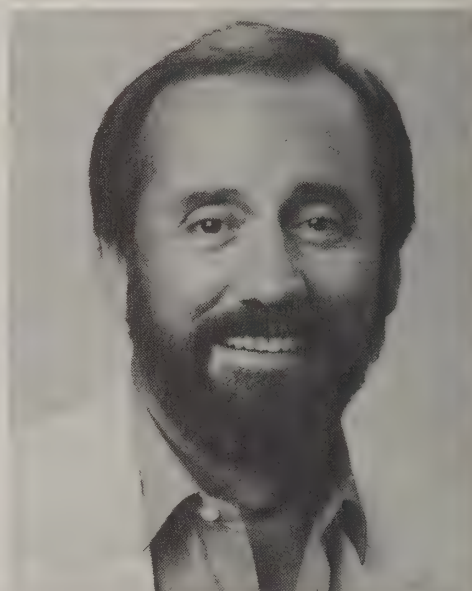


Tickets
are **STILL**
Only
\$4.00
each!

Buy Now
and Save!

Friday, September 1

**RAY
STEVENS**



Saturday, September 2

**LOUISE
MANDRELL**

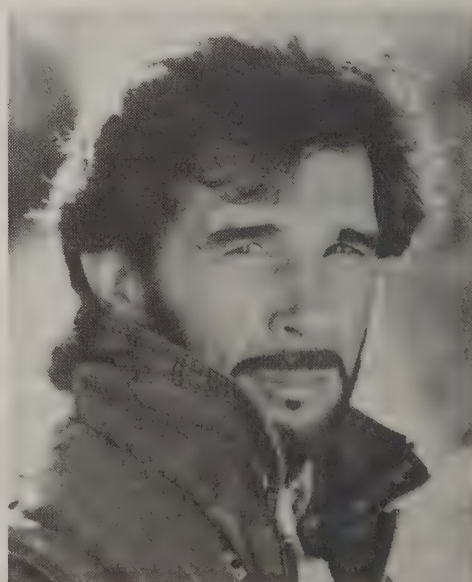


Tickets will
increase to
\$6.00 each
effective
August 1

Tickets will
go on sale
April 3

Sunday, September 3

**EDDIE
RABBITT**



ALL SHOWS HELD RAIN OR SHINE - 6:30 P.M. and 9:00 P.M.

**Midwest Old Threshers is not responsible for misplaced, lost, or stolen tickets.
TICKETS ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.**

Please Fill In Order Blank, Mailing Address and Phone Number

Seating options include reserved in the covered grandstand or general admission on the track nearer the stage. All tickets are \$4.00 each if purchased Prior to August 1 (postmarked), then \$6.00, thereafter. Children under 3 held on lap are admitted free. Seating opens at least one half hour prior to showtime. (NO LAWN CHAIRS, PETS, OR VIDEO CAMERAS ARE ALLOWED) All shows held rain or shine. Ticket sales are limited to available seating. Mail orders received after August 26, will be held at the ticket booth. Ticket price does not include a one-time \$6.00 Membership/Reunion admission. MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MISPLACED, LOST, OR STOLEN TICKETS.

PLEASE INDICATE NUMBER OF TICKETS IN BOXES!

WEDNESDAY - Aug. 30
Wayne Lewis Band
Possum Trot Band

7:30 P.M. \$3.00 Special
Bluegrass Concert
General Admission Only

Reserved
Grandstand
General
Admission
Track

THURSDAY - Aug. 31
LEE GREENWOOD

6:30 P.M.
9:00 P.M.

FRIDAY - Sept. 1
RAY STEVENS

6:30 P.M.
9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY - Sept. 2
LOUISE MANDRELL

6:30 P.M.
9:00 P.M.

SUNDAY - Sept. 3
EDDIE RABBITT

6:30 P.M.
9:00 P.M.

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NO CREDIT
CARD ORDERS
★
NO TELEPHONE
ORDERS ACCEPTED
★

★
FREE!
1989
SOUVENIR BUTTON
WITH PURCHASE
OF MEMBERSHIP
CARD PRIOR
TO AUGUST 28

★
MAKE CHECKS
PAYABLE TO:
MIDWEST
OLD THRESHERS
★

NUMBER

AMOUNT

_____ WEDNESDAY SPECIAL CONCERT at \$3.00 each _____

_____ COUNTRY MUSIC TICKETS \$4.00 each _____
(\$6.00 • August 1 - September 3)

_____ MEMBERSHIP CARDS at \$6.00 each _____
(Under 10 free)

Add \$2.00 Handling Charge for Entire Order \$ 2.00
(If not included, order will be returned)

ENCLOSED TOTAL

\$

Tickets
will go on
Sale April 3

★
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1989 GRANDSTAND ENTERTAINMENT

Special Bluegrass Concert

Wednesday, August 30 (7:30 p.m. only)

POSSUM TROT BAND

The Possum Trot Band started playing full time at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri in 1976. The band plays traditional, contemporary and gospel music in a smooth, forceful and delightful manner. Possum Trot is recognized as among the best Bluegrass bands in the Midwest.

WAYNE LEWIS BAND

Playing professionally since age eleven, Wayne Lewis learned his craft from his parents and grew up listening to the Grand Ole Opry every weekend. A life long dream came true for Lewis in 1976 when the father of Bluegrass music, Bill Monroe, asked Wayne to join his band. Wayne toured with Bill Monroe for ten years and has recorded three successful albums of his own.



Wayne Lewis

Thursday, August 31

LEE GREENWOOD

Male vocalist of the year in 1985, Greenwood has his own style with a background in music from jazz to country. His musical experience dates back twenty years with the ability to play ten instruments. If there is one word that describes his performance on stage, it's intensity.

Friday, September 1

RAY STEVENS

Ray Stevens is both a comedian and singer/songwriter who has a tremendous wit, musical ability, and lyrical diversity. He is an artist who performs songs that touch upon human emotions - particularly laughter. From modern day standards like "Everything is Beautiful" and "Turn Your Radio On" to the hysterical "Gitarzan" and "Ahab the Arab," his songs are truly show stoppers. This marks his first performance at the Old Threshers Reunion.

Saturday, September 2

LOUISE MANDRELL

Her talent, personality, and boundless energy have already won her a legion of fans, unparalleled reviews, a string of hit records, a best selling book, numerous commercial endorsements, and her own nationally syndicated television special. By any standard, Louise Mandrell is one of the hottest tickets of the entertainment set. She has an uncanny ability to relate to and reach her audience and has had a very successful impact on the recording industry spotlighting her wide range of talents and vocal abilities.

Sunday, September 3

EDDIE RABBITT

With a 100% Irish heritage, Eddie Rabbitt arrived in Nashville in 1968 on a Greyhound bus and became an outstanding singer and songwriter. With 25 number-one records, 13 best-selling LPs and dozens of song-writing awards, Eddie has been an immense commercial success. He has tempered his tremendous success with a responsibility to his audience that has earned him a broad based appeal. This is also Eddie Rabbitt's first appearance at the Old Threshers Reunion.

SWAP MEET FLEA MARKET

JUNE 24-25, 1989

**OLD THRESHERS
MT. PLEASANT, IOWA**

COME BUY, SELL OR SWAP
GAS ENGINE, TRACTOR, STEAM ENGINE,
CAR, TRUCK, HORSE RELATED OR
FLEA MARKET ITEMS.

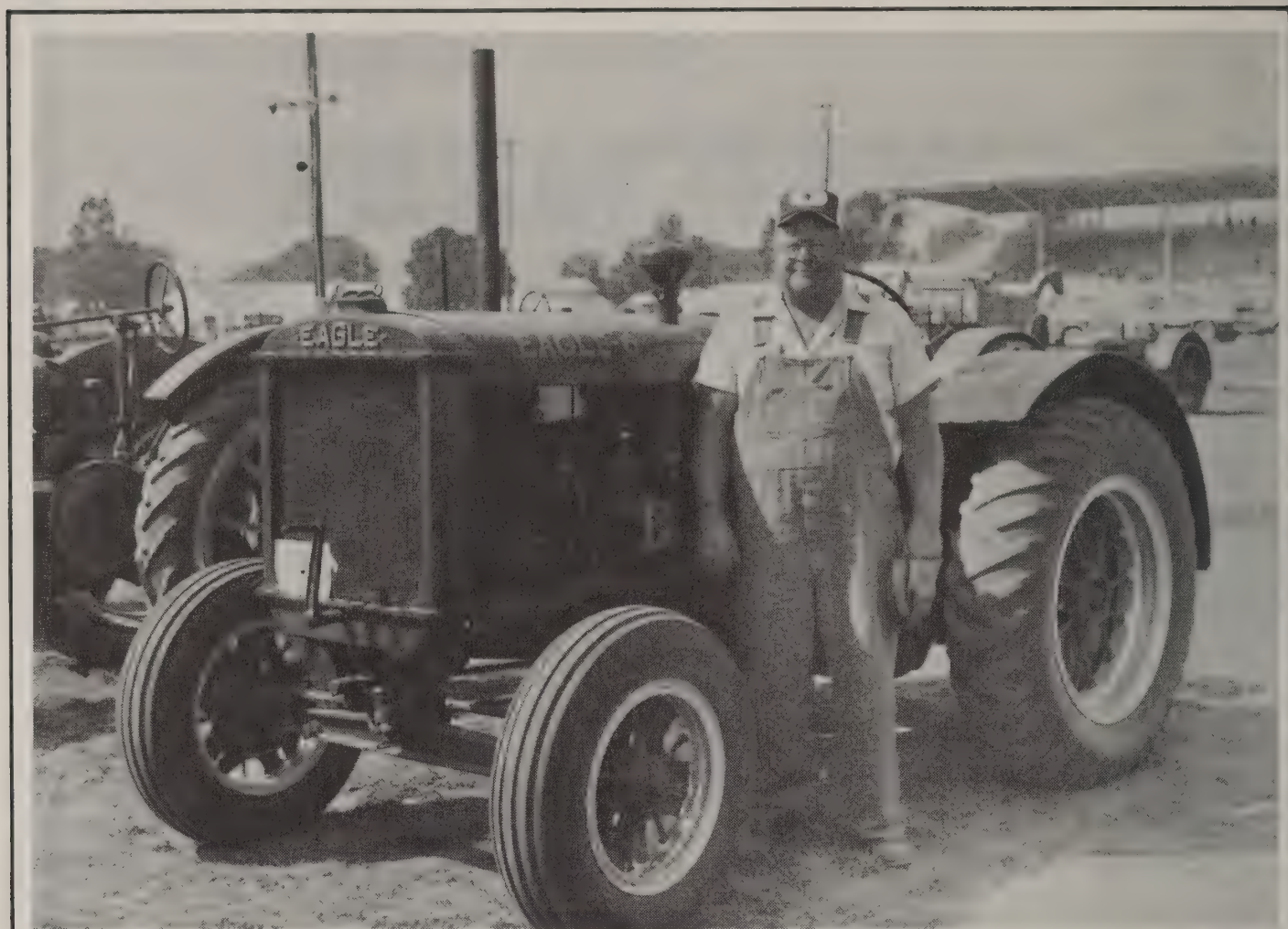
SPECIAL COLLECTOR CAR SHOW (20th CENTURY CAR CLUB)

\$1.00 ADMISSION (GOOD BOTH DAYS
UNDER 10 FREE)

- SET-UP FEE: \$5.00 (INCLUDES 1 PASS)
 - GROUNDS OPEN JUNE 23 AT 8:00 AM
 - EARLY ARRIVALS PAY REGULAR
CAMPING FEES UNTIL FRIDAY MORNING
-

**FREE PARKING
FOOD AVAILABLE ON GROUNDS**

EAGLE TRACTORS SOAR AT OLD THRESHERS REUNION



The "6A" Eagle tractor owned by Richard "Dick" Grimm from Charlotte, Iowa, will be the "Featured Tractor" at the 1989 Old Threshers Reunion. Grimm has been an active volunteer for many years at Old Threshers and has exhibited at the Reunion and many other regional shows. His Eagle tractor has been used in various demonstrations and assists with the antique tractor pulls held on Friday and Saturday mornings during the annual event.

The Eagle Manufacturing Company in Appleton, Wisconsin, made an early entry into the gas tractor manufacturing business with the introduction of a 32 HP model with a two-cylinder opposed engine. The tractor was advertised in the August, 1906 issue of the American Thresherman magazine, but little was heard from the company about the Eagle tractor for several years.

The Eagle Manufacturing Company never controlled a major market share of the industry, but continued to introduce new models to the agricultural consumers. At the 1930 Nebraska Tractor Test, the new Eagle "6A" was fielded with a six cylinder Hercules 4 x 4½ inch engine. After 1934, the manufacturer's directories show the tractor with a Waukesha 4 x 4¾ inch motor. The Eagle Company suspended production of tractors during World War II and apparently did not resume manufacture after the war.

Like the gas engine area, the tractor area has been one of the fastest growing areas at the Old Threshers Reunion. Exhibitors are encouraged to participate in a variety of action demonstrations designed to entertain Reunion visitors. Quality restorations in excellent working order are displayed by proud owners more than willing to answer questions about their tractors. Don't miss the display of machines that helped to establish our agricultural way of life in America!

Theatre Museum Continues to Gain National Attention



Curator Caroline Schaffner (second from right), and Assistant Curator Joe Mauck (right), host two scholars to a tour of the Theatre Museum, one of many such tours conducted each year. Visible in the background is a portion of the "Toby Hall of Fame" exhibit.

The Fourth Annual Spring Theatre History Seminar was hosted by Midwest Old Threshers and the National Society for the Preservation of Tent, Folk and Repertoire Theatre March 31, April 1 and 2 in the Theatre Museum on the Old Threshers grounds. The conference brought together scholars and early-day troupers in this era of theatre. George Eells, noted author and critic, and former Theatre Editor for LOOK magazine was the seminar's celebrity guest. He has been the author of numerous books on famous personalities including Mae West, Ethel Merman, Cole Porter, Robert Mitchum, Hedda Hopper, Louella Parsons and others. Seminar participants came from more than six states.

Tours of the museum have continued to be on the increase, attracting tourists, scholars and students. Each fall Elderhostel groups are hosted to sessions entitled "American Repertoire Theatre and Tent Shows." The facility houses thousands of pictures, show heralds, advertising sheets, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, scripts, costumes and other memorabilia dating back to the beginning of tent repertoire theatre in the 1850's. Instruments, sheet music, and band uniforms used by entertainers "between play acts" are also displayed, along with more than thirty house curtains and drops. These can be seen on both floors of the museum. A video tape describing the curtains and drops is available from the video library, as well as a video of the complete museum tour with Curator Caroline Schaffner.

A listing of the videos available from the Research Library may be requested from the address shown at the the bottom of this page. Cost of each video is \$14.50, which includes shipping and handling.

Individuals interested in the theatre are working numerous hours at the Research Library cataloguing programs, pictures, scripts, posters, scrapbooks, and other artifacts donated by individuals active in this era of theatre or those received from collectors who locate such items to add to the collections. National Society President and Assistant Curator Joe Mauck said, "We are grateful for the continued and growing interest in the preservation of this heritage that has almost been forgotten by many theatre historians. We welcome scholars and visitors alike."

Those individuals interested in more information are invited to contact: Midwest Old Threshers, Route 1, Threshers Road, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641. Tel: 319-385-8937.

"OLD THRESHER" AWARDS

At each Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, individuals are recognized with "Old Thresher" awards if they have been a part of our agricultural heritage. The common bond of these people is a direct relation to steam and threshing.

The Association invites anyone knowing of such a person or persons who are deserving of such recognition to submit the names and addresses to Midwest Old Threshers, Threshers Road, Route 1, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641 - Attn: Billie Turley. Such persons need not necessarily live in the southeast Iowa area. We will strive to include all the individuals who are recommended for this honor.



This early Reunion photograph, showing the steam engineers that attended, is among the many traditions at the show. In 1985, a panoramic photograph was taken that included over 150 engineers and over 80 steam traction engines.

This photograph shows a Cavalcade of Power parading in front of the old grandstand. The current grandstand was completed with the help of many volunteers just in the nick of time for the 1969 Reunion.



HORSE POWER IN ACTION

The Old Threshers Reunion has gained the reputation as an action event with demonstrations and activities happening in a multitude of places. The horse area exemplifies this reputation with a variety of demonstrations held each day of the Annual Reunion.

Teams of massive draft horses can be seen as grain is threshed through a vintage Case Agitator separator. The horses are used to operate the twelve horse sweep which provides power through a drive shaft to the separator unit. Horse powered threshing can be viewed every morning and afternoon during the Old Threshers Reunion. Several teamsters also take their hitches to a nearby field where several different types of horsedrawn plows are demonstrated. In addition, horses provide power for baling straw, pressing cane, grinding corn, and parading various historic units in front of the Grandstand during the daily Cavalcade of Power (held each Reunion day at Noon, weather permitting).



Action in the horse area is capped off with the annual Invitational Horse Pull, scheduled for the final day of the Reunion (September 4 at 4:00 p.m.). This free grandstand show always attracts a large crowd and will mark the last event of the 1989 Old Threshers Reunion (Aug. 31 - Sept. 4).

Do you have friends or relatives that would be interested in learning more about Midwest Old Threshers?

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

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RR 1, Threshers Road
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641**

OLD ADDRESS

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

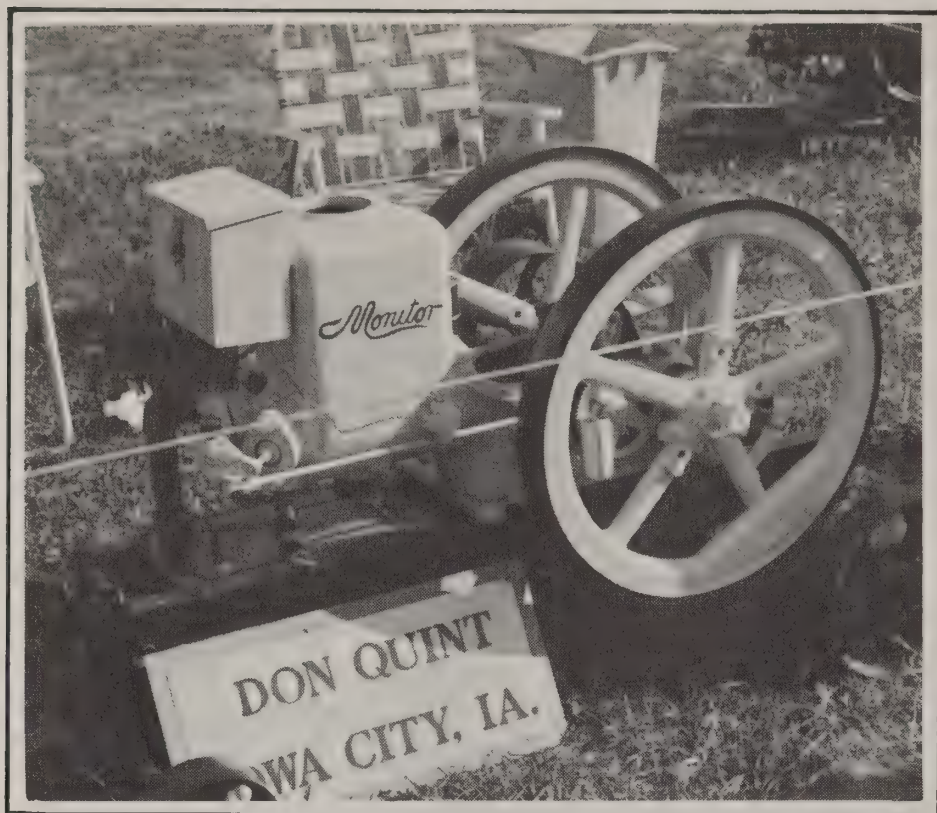
NEW ADDRESS

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Record Numbers Anticipated



The famous "Monitor" line of gas engines manufactured by the A.S. Baker Company in Evansville, Wisconsin, will be featured at the 1989 Old Threshers Reunion. Monitor engines were first built about 1905 and the following years saw an extensive number offered for sale, ranging in size from the 1¼ HP Monitor pump engine to a 15 HP horizontal style. The Baker Company ceased gas engine production in

1944, but the company continued to manufacture pumps and water systems and remains a leader in the industry.

By 1918, the Monitor line included a series of horizontal engines that featured a unique valve gear mechanism. Both the intake and exhaust valves were mechanically operated from a single push rod, and a heavy spring kept the cam roller in constant contact with the cam itself. Because of this unique design, the intake valve was actuated by the spring pulling the roller into the cam depressions. All the Monitor engines were designed to support the flourishing windmill and pump trade developed by the A.S. Baker Company in the 1920's.

If variety and action displays intrigue you, then the gas engine area at the Old Threshers Reunion is a must to view. Reunion visitors will be astonished at the number of quality restorations operating in the exhibit area and will enjoy talking with the engine owners as they proudly display their machines. Midwest Old Threshers has continued to encourage exhibitors to increase not only the quantity of the gas engines displayed, but the quality as well. The Association is proud of the gas engine area and invites you to experience those displays at the 1989 Old Threshers Reunion scheduled for August 31 through September 4.

FOR MORE IN DEPTH DETAILS ON OLD THRESHERS SUBSCRIBE TO THE

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* **Old Threshers Videotapes** *

1988 - Gas Engine Video

Watch the hundreds of gas engines at the Reunion demonstrate their many uses from making miniature bales to pumping water, crushing rock, and generating electricity.

1988 - Antique Tractor Video

View one of the fastest growing exhibit areas at the Reunion. Watch the popular antique tractor pull and look at more than 300 restored and operating tractors.

1987 - Steam Traction Engine Video

Experience the Reunion's main exhibit area - the steam traction engines. It includes: threshing, the Cavalcade of Power, stationary engines, saw and veneer mills, and steam plowing.

NEW - The History of the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Reunion

Learn the history of the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Reunion from its conception in 1950 to the present day. See how the Reunion has grown from a two-day event with 15 steam engines into one of the top 100 attractions in the United States. (Available: late June, 1989. *)

TWO NEW TAPES COMING THIS FALL!

40th Anniversary Edition of the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Video Scrapbook

*

The 1989 Cavalcade of Power

EACH TAPE ONLY \$29.95

ANY TWO TAPES ONLY \$49.95

Add \$2.00 per tape for Shipping and Handling
Iowa residents add 4% sales tax

Please Specify VHS or BETA Format and Allow 3-4 Weeks for Delivery*

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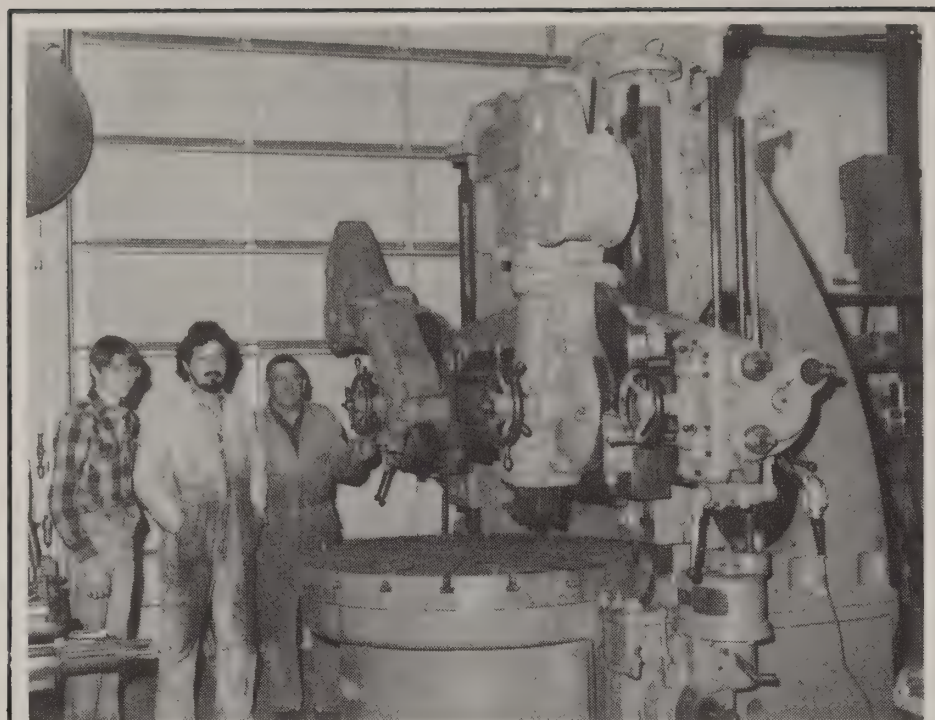
VIDEO ENTERPRISES

P.O. Box 221

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641

Midwest Central Railroad Keeping Very Busy

by Stan Mathews



Shop Services employees Dave Christie, Scott Deaton, and Walt Wright stand next to the recently installed 56 inch vertical boring mill. The huge machine weighs in at over 25,000 pounds. (Photo by Jim Adams)

"SHOP SERVICES" is deep into some very interesting projects, such as rebuilding a boiler for an 1873 horse drawn steam fire engine for the city of Marietta, Georgia. This fire engine was one of the first in Marietta, and the city officials want it restored to "like new" operable condition.

The most fascinating project to date is the reproduction of a Watts Governor. This was the first fly-ball governor invented by James Watt to control his very early stationary steam engines. There is only one surviving example, located at Greenfield Village in Detroit. The challenge comes from what we have to work with; which is one photograph and a very rough hand drawn sketch with many dimensions missing. As new and better governors were developed, these were replaced by the later models and thrown away. Today, there are many of the old stationary engines in museums, but all have a later governor not proper for the period represented. This project has required many hours at the drawing board to produce drawings for the pattern maker and machine shop. This governor stands about twenty four inches tall and each of the two fly-balls are 4½" in diameter and weigh about 13 pounds.

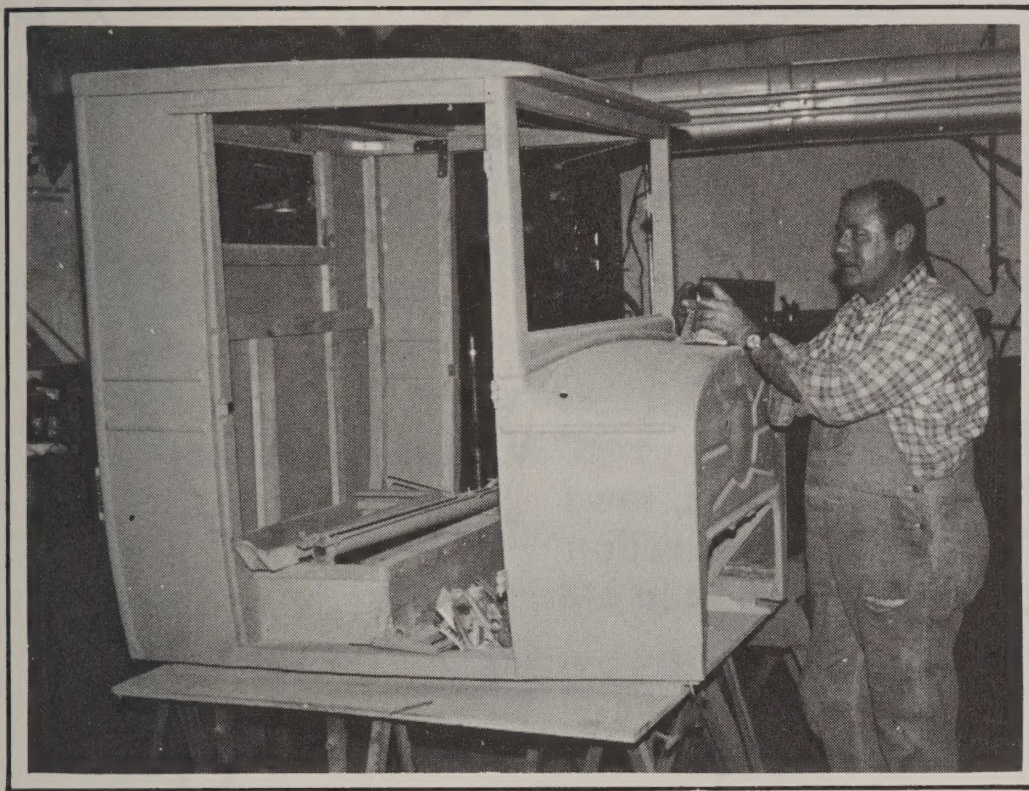
After a year of negotiating, we finally have managed to purchase the C.Y.Z. No. 1. This is a narrow gauge engine from Mexico that has been on display in a museum in Campo, California, about 30 miles southeast of San Diego. The engine weighs about 65 tons, is of 2-8-0 wheel arrangement, and was built by Baldwin. It is different from our other engines in that it has an outside frame and is quite a bit longer. This engine has been the only one of this size offered for sale in the United States for some time.

We have just installed a 56" vertical boring mill. This is a big machine, weighing about 25,000 lbs. It will enable us to turn driver tires, bore wheel centers and perform many other heavy turning jobs.

The Midwest Central Railroad can always use volunteers and visitors are welcome anytime. The MCRR shop is located just across the road from the Old Threshers office and museums and also contains a gift shop with numerous items of railroad interest. For more information write or call: Midwest Central Railroad, Box 102, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641, (319) 385-2912.

Don Simmons Grinds Out Another Restoration!

by Ben Taylor



"The true restorer's work is never done . . ." this is evidenced in Don Simmons' work shop here in Mt. Pleasant, as he methodically goes about the complete restoration of a rather rare 1927, 4 cyl., Chevrolet Ton Truck!

It all started last year when Simmons purchased the 1927 Chevy

Truck from Delbert Roush in Knoxville – a fellow member of the Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club. The truck came originally from South Dakota and had only 35,000 in mileage. It has an enclosed cab, double adjustable windshield, wipers, bullet shaped headlight buckets and the gasoline tank is under the driver's seat. It is a far cry from today's "farmers friend," – the modern pickup.

Two things are rather unique about this restoration – first, it is one of the early examples of a new method of paint stripping, rust removal, surface treatment and metal cleaning and degreasing – known as E-Z Strip. The truck was completely disassembled and the parts stripped at the E-Z plant at Muscatine, Iowa.

The other thing is that this vehicle will be a valuable addition to the truck displays already established at the Antique Car Museum and on the show grounds.

The truck will be painted in the original colors, green with a black trim. The wheels are oak spokes, natural finish, with new 600 x 20 tires. The gauges, switches and labels are all being cleaned and replaced.

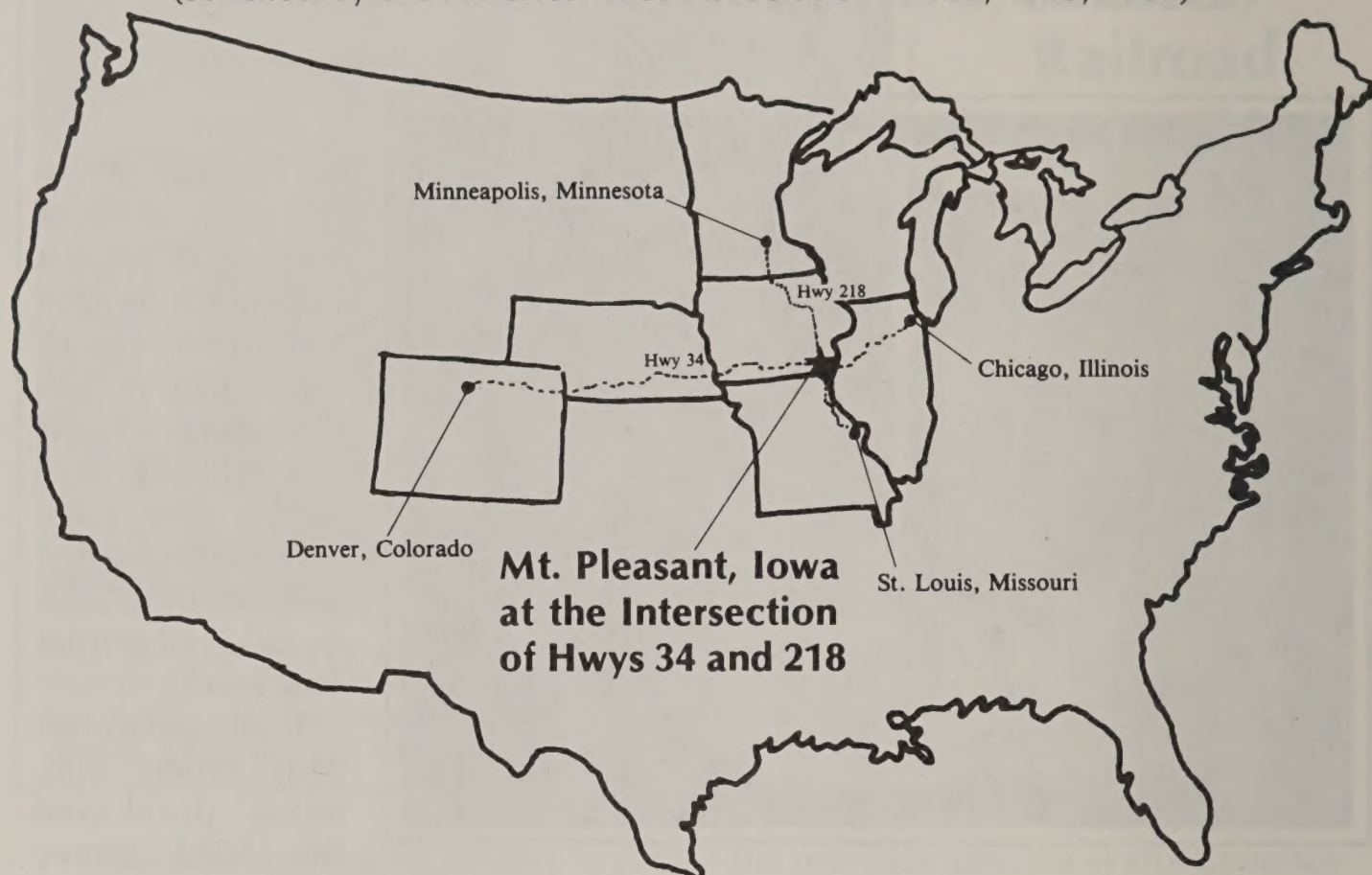
Nearly all of the woodwork of the cab had to be replaced with oak, walnut and ash. This included the top and the frames of the doors and glass channels. Carpenter Bruce Moore did most of the woodworking and Dean Herrick redid the oak wheels. Both are fellow members of the Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club.

Donald Simmons and his wife, Kay, live at 310 North Hamlin Street in Mt. Pleasant. His work shop and tool room adjoin the home – a very handy arrangement. Don is a precision worker, with the instinct of a blood hound to find all of the little parts which he needs in restoration work. He started his antique car activity in 1976. This is the sixth car he has restored. He owns a 1928 Chevy 2-dr; 1928 Chevy Roadster; 1926 Model T. Ford; 1928 Chevy 1 Ton Truck; and a 1952 Chevy 2-dr.

So, when you visit the 1989 Old Threshers Reunion, be sure to seek out this restoration and compare it to the present pickup you are driving. See you in September!

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS

★ One of the Top 100 Destinations in North America ★
(as rated by the American Bus Association - 1983, 1985, 1987)



Group tours are Welcome during the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion and throughout the Museum season.

Heritage Museums include a gift shop and book store, farm house & barn, farm implements, tools, and an electric trolley and steam train.

Interpretive exhibits include:

"Women . . . Partners on the Land"

"Water: Too Little . . . Too Much"

"Electricity Comes to the Farm"

Visit the Theatre Museum of Repertoire Americana that houses a vast collection of tent, folk, repertoire theatre, and opera house memorabilia. Open by appointment.

For Additional Group Tour Information Contact:

Jamie Yaley
Midwest Old Threshers
Route 1, Threshers Road
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641

Phone: (319) 385-8937

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS HERITAGE MUSEUMS

Open Daily - Memorial Day through Labor Day
Open Monday-Friday: Mid-April to Mid-October
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Admission: \$2.50 - UNDER 10 FREE!

Theatre Museum of Repertoire Americana
available for tours by appointment
Phone: (319) 385-8937

FREE Admission to the museums with
your Midwest Old Threshers
1989 Membership Card

CAMPING

The daily camping rate during the Old Threshers Reunion and regular camping season is \$6.25. Overnight, weekly, and rally camping is available from spring through fall at the large 60 acre campground at Midwest Old Threshers. Camping facilities are also available in the local state and county parks.

THE MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS GIFT SHOP is open year-round and has a large selection of books on farming in the past, crafts, steam trains, trolleys, farm animals, how-to books, and manuals for antique tractors, steam traction engines, gas engines, and related machinery. There are also souvenir items relating to the Old Threshers Reunion and many items for the kids, along with old-time treats.

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS
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"Dedicated to Preserving Our Agricultural Heritage in A Modern World"

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